



Department of Justice

United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott
Eastern District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, August 22, 2008
www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae
Docket #: 08-cr-102-LJO

CONTACT: Lauren Horwood
PHONE: (916) 554-2706
lauren.horwood@usdoj.gov

ARMY RECRUITER PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY *Agrees to 11-year Prison Term*

FRESNO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that RAMON SANTOS, Jr., of Lemoore, Calif., pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill to one count of receipt and distribution of images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. As part of his plea agreement, the defendant agreed to a term of 135 months in prison.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Palm Beach County (Florida) Sheriff's Department working in conjunction with the Fresno Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Unit. Assistance was also provided by the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, investigators in Florida seized and analyzed a computer known to be involved in the distribution of images of child pornography through use of an America Online e-mail account. Investigators determined that SANTOS had sent images depicting the sexual abuse of minors to one or more persons. A search warrant for his residence at the Naval Air Station Lemoore was executed, his computer was seized, and when it was analyzed, numerous images of child pornography were located. Court documents reveal that several of the images depicted violence, and one video was

approximately 29 minutes in length and involved images of children as young as three years of age being sexually abused. When the search warrant was executed, SANTOS, a 17-year veteran and sergeant in the Army Reserves, was employed as a recruiter.

SANTOS was remanded into custody today, and the court scheduled his sentencing for October 31, 2008, at 9:00 a.m.

#####